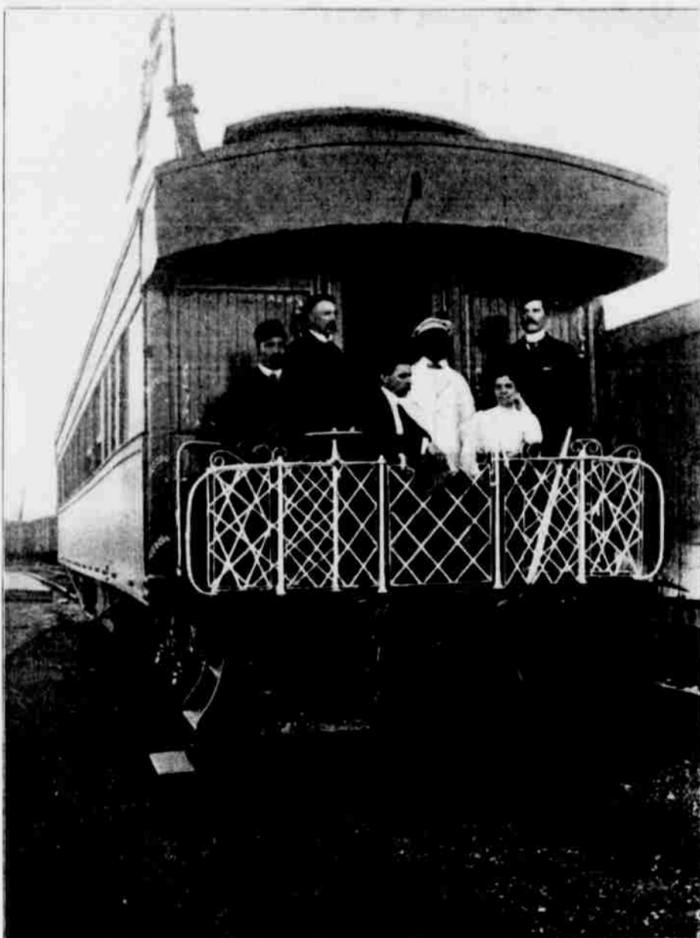


A Novel Feature In a Private Office

Many of The Bee readers will recall with interest Dr. Seymour's five years' residence in this city, where he became so well known as an eye specialist, and his subsequent return to Chicago to enlarge his business. It has been a source of pleasure to many of his friends to note his progress and steady advancement in his profession. He has built up a very extensive

and successful business and gathered about him a number of very skillful specialists, but withal his conducting the Chicago business, he gives the greater portion of his time to his Nebraska practice. He has established his home in Lincoln, which being more centrally located in the state than Omaha, aside from affording excellent railroad facilities, brings him nearer his many patients who are scattered over Nebraska.



REAR VIEW OF DR. SEYMOUR'S PRIVATE OFFICE CAR.



RECEPTION ROOM AND PARLOR.

During the past year he has made his trips in his own private car, a description of which will be interesting to many who have never been permitted to personally inspect these wonderful palace homes. And to say that Dr. Seymour's car is a little palace on wheels is not overdrawing the subject, as it was originally built for the president of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railway, and besides being unusually large is beautifully finished in hand carved mahogany.

The car is most conveniently arranged for living and office purposes; contains in all eight rooms, and is lighted by a modern acetylene gas plant.

Beginning at the front end which, contrary to the usual method of housekeeping, contains the kitchen. The culinary department, which, though rather minute, contains all the essentials for the most extravagant cook, the range being the latest model, but differing from that used in the home, inasmuch that there is a little railing around the top which we presume is to keep the pots and kettles from sliding off while the car is in motion. The kitchen contains a large ice chest, copper covered meat boards and sinks, all furnished with hot and cold water, and in the eyes of an up-to-date cook this kitchen and butler's pantry, which adjoins it, are models of convenience in their many appointments that are so labor-saving. The china closet adds its curious features to the noxious, as the dishes are hung on hooks and placed behind racks to keep them from sliding about and becoming generally mixed up when the car is in motion.

But leaving the butler's pantry, which is supplied with sliding shelves, folding tables, etc., all of which are intended to save room, we will pass to the diningroom,

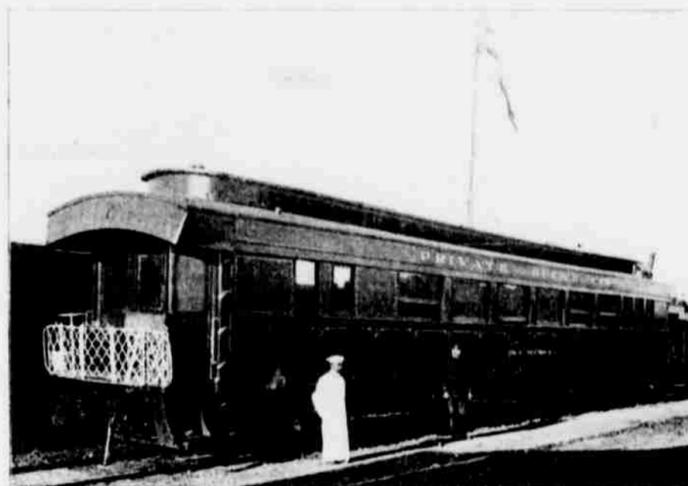
which seems most commodious to be on wheels, and is fitted with couches, tables and chairs, and the room is used for a reception room for the doctor's patients, aside from meal hours. The next room the doctor uses as a private consulting room, and is darkened as needed for examinations of the eyes with artificial lights and is as well appointed for these purposes as the most up-to-date city office could possibly be. Following this is the parlor, or general consulting room, occupied by the doctors,

and is used for the purposes of fitting glasses and making general examinations, and is a model of luxury with its carpeted floors and upholstering, which far surpasses the average physician's office in comfort and convenience for their patients. The next rooms are the doctor's private apartments, occupied by himself and wife, and consist of two adjoining rooms, each being about eight feet square, one containing a bath tub supplied with hot and cold water; the other, which is used as a small private parlor through the day, can be almost instantly transformed into a stateroom, which in its minuteness would almost give one the impression of a playhouse, although every appointment is perfect for comfort.

Passing from here we reach the room in the rear of the car, which in reality would be called the front hall or general reception room, although the car is usually moved with the kitchen forward, and being attached to the rear of trains, leaves the spacious platforms to be occupied in pleasant weather by the travelers.

Many of the doctor's moves, coming to and from his home are made in the night, which, however, does not interfere with the household retiring at the usual hour and arising the next morning to find their surroundings entirely changed perhaps from the picturesque hills of South Dakota to the broad prairie of Nebraska, and their breakfast served as regularly and with as little commotion as you would be called by your servants in your own home.

Dr. Seymour expects to make Omaha a visit some time during the coming winter and many of his friends and acquaintances will appreciate an invitation to personally inspect the car.



PRIVATE OFFICE CAR OF DR. W. I. SEYMOUR, IN WHICH HE MAKES HIS ANNUAL TOUR OF THIS STATE.

How Chinese Use Modern Machinery

(Copyright, 1900, by Frank G. Carpenter.)
SHANGHAI, Sept. 10, 1900.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—The biggest cotton factory of the Chinese empire is here at Shanghai. It belongs to Li Hung Chang, Sheng, the director of railways, and other wealthy Chinamen. It has a capital of 2,000,000 taels and it is a mill which would be enormous in the United States. Its buildings cover sixty acres, it employs 6,000 workmen and it is now turning out 1,000 pieces of cloth and 80,000 pounds of cotton yarn every twenty-four hours. The factory runs day and night. It has two shifts of workmen, each of which puts in eleven hours and a half, so that it is busy twenty-three hours out of every twenty-four. The mill has fifty looms and 90,000 spindles and its machinery is as modern and up-to-date as that of any cotton factory of Massachusetts. This factory is run entirely on Chinese capital. It is fed on cotton grown in China and its employes, men and women, are, with one or two exceptions, Chinese.
This mill is the first of China's great cotton factories. It is not the only one by any means. There are eight others here at Shanghai. There is one at Soochow, one at

Hang Chow and two at Wuchang, 800 miles up the Yangtze. There is another at Hong Kong and as soon as this war is over others will start up in different parts of the empire. The Japanese have bought some ground here for a factory, the Germans own some of the factories already running and the probability is that both foreigners and Chinese will now enter the race to supply the Chinese millions with cotton goods manufactured on their own soil.

At present there are in central China more than 378,000 spindles running and over 525,000 projected.

Built by an American.

This great mill of Sheng and Li Hung Chang was built by an American. Li and Sheng planned it seventeen years ago, but it was a long time before they could get the machinery made and the mill into operation. It was found that the short-staple cotton would not work with the ordinary American machinery and it had to be adapted especially to it. This was done by Mr. W. Danforth, a Massachusetts man, who came out here at the instance of the company and was sent back to the United

States to test the matter. Mr. Danforth is still the technical foreign adviser of the mill, although he has nothing to do with its direction, this being in the hands of Sheng's brother.

It was with Mr. Danforth that I went over the mill. He tells me he is the only American connected with it and that in all the eight cotton mills of Shanghai not more than a dozen foreigners are employed, although they use something like 25,000 hands. Shen and Li Hung Chang have another mill in which there is but one foreigner, two other Chinese mills use foreigners as consulting engineers only and in the factories run by foreign capital there are, as a rule, not more than three or four foreign workmen.

Chinese Factory Girls.

It has been found that the Chinese are the equals of any people of the world as factory hands. Mr. Danforth tells me that they learn quickly to handle machinery and that many could take their places in our mills and hold their own. The foremen understand how to control the hands and the work is thoroughly organized. About three-fourths of the employes are women and children. I went through room after room filled with girls weaving and spinning. Some of the women had brought their babies with them. One I remember had laid her almond-eyed little one in a basket between her knees as she worked. The baby was quiet and its cheeks broke out into dimples as I tickled it.

The factory girls work from 6 to 6, with a half hour at noon for luncheon. They ride to the mill on wheelbarrows, a half dozen sitting on the same barrow, leaning back to back against the wheel, which comes up through the center of the vehicle.

I asked as to their wages and was told that the average was 28 cents in silver, or 14 cents in our money a day. The poorest do not get more than 5 cents a day, while very skillful workmen and workwomen make as much as \$25 gold a month. Such cases are very few. Fourteen cents a day is just a little over 1 cent an hour, and many of these girls do not earn even half a cent per hour. The night shift is just the same as the day shift, the workwomen changing off with each other and working alternately all night or all day for a week at a time.

At the close of the war with Japan, when a number of the new mills were built, wages rose. There was a strike or two and the average went up to an amount here considered enormous, or from 17 to 20 cents of our money per day. Since then they have fallen to their present level, but they

will probably rise again with the new mills to be built when the war closes.

In the Shops.

The interior of one of these big spinning mills is a curiosity. The factory is built of dark gray brick, with enormous rooms running around courts. The buildings are of two stories, well lighted with many windows. Each room has hundreds of modern weaving machines, at each of which are two or more of these Chinese girls, some with big feet and some with little ones. The little-footed maidens hobble about, swaying this way and that, as they arrange the thread. Some of them sit on benches and turn the reels by pressing their little feet up and down on the pedals. I am told that the women with small feet cannot do as much work as those with the big ones. They have to sit down oftener, and the big-footed women complain that they are not allowed to rest as much as their small-footed sisters.

The cotton is ginned here in different machines than in America. A great deal of it is ginned before it comes to the factory in rude hand wringers. In the factory small steel Japanese gins are employed. These are about one-fourth the size of our modern machines, but they will not do one-eighth as much work. They are run by steam and are handled by men and boys.

After the cotton is ginned it is packed away into enormous bags, each about

twice as big as the biggest bed tick, and holding 132 pounds of cotton. The bales are not pressed down, as with us. The bags are fastened into a framework, and the coolies put the cotton in with their arms, carrying it up steps to the top. When the bag is full they jump in and tread it down with their feet, and then pile in more until they have the requisite weight.

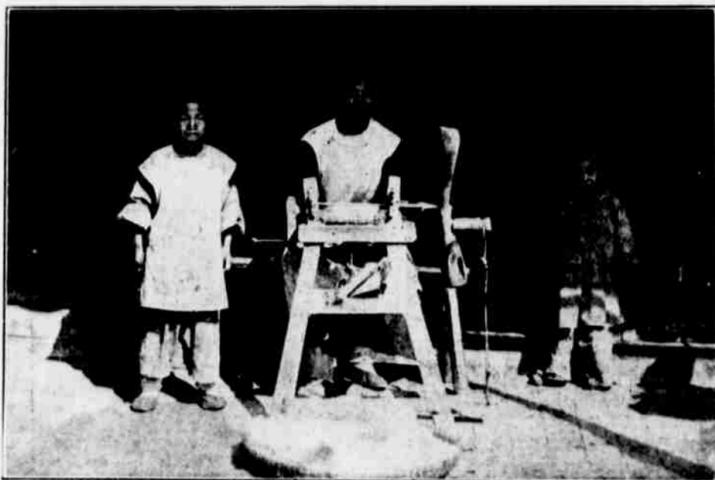
Some Modern Inventions in China.

I have said that this factory has modern machinery. Its looms come from the United States, but its spinning machinery is from England. The steam engine is a 500-horse power Corliss, from Philadelphia, I think, which Mr. Corliss invented especially for it. It has an American electric light plant for it and can keep 6,000 lights burning.

The goods are carried from building to building on the factory railroads. It has its own water works, including a large tank and pumping station. The employes go through a fire drill every week, and everything, as far as possible, is fireproof, one of the structures having a roof of the shape of a tank in which one foot of water is always kept.

I asked Sheng as to how much money the company used in its business. He was rather reticent about giving figures, but said that it used from 2,000,000 to 3,000,000

(Continued on Eighth Page.)



A COUNTRY COTTON GIN.



CHINESE FACTORY GIRLS ON THE WAY TO WORK.